Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—The Government accepts my resolution. I have nothing to reply.

President.—It will be recorded in the Council Proceedings that the Government have accepted. There should be no withdrawal.

Resolution accepted by Government.

(2) Special Officer in charge of Irrigation.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—"*This Council requests the Government to appoint a Special Officer to be in charge of Irrigation.*"

In moving this resolution I may bring to the attention of this House that from the very inception of this Council we have been asking the Government to devote more attention to irrigation. Although there has been some response from the Government, I should say that the steps taken hitherto by the Government in this direction are not quite satisfactory. I know that the Government have got a division under the P. W. D. for irrigation, but it is a temporary division. It has not been made permanet. In the last budget session a motion was passed to the effect that the Government should have a permanent department or rather a permanent section to look after irrigation. I need not point out to this House, both to the officials and non-officials, the importance of irrigation. It has been stated in the Census Report that about 60 per cent of the population of the State are entirely depending upon agriculture and what the Government have been doing for the agricultural population in the State is too paltry. It has been admitted by the Government this morning that they have not done anything even to find out the possibility of getting a higher price for the agricultural produce in the State. Yesterday in answer to a question of mine about the production of paddy in Cochin, the Government have stated that we are not having sufficient quantity of paddy produced in our State for the consumption of the people in this State. It is therefore very urgent, it is an immediate necessity, that the Government should look into this matter and take measures to see that the paddy cultivation is increased in the State from year to year because the population is increasing as testified to in the Census Report. I also asked the Government in that question whether additional areas had been brought under cultivation in the last ten years. From the answer given to that I find that Government have been able to bring under cultivation only a small additional area. It is about 300 acres only with a period of 10 years from 1921 to 1931—in the year 1921, the land under paddy cultivation was 2,07,389·42 acres and in 1931—2,07,686·47 acres. The increase is quite unsatisfactory when large areas of cultivable land are available. Though I asked the Government to

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inform the quantity of paddy yield in the State in 1921 and 1931 separately, the Government have conveniently stated that in a normal year the yield of paddy is 21 millions of parahs. The Government have admitted that we annually require for consumption 33·6 millions of parahs of paddy. We have there to produce annually about 12 millions of parahs of paddy to meet our requirements. To produce this or even a part of this, no one will gain say that we should pay more attention to irrigation.

In moving this resolution it is not my intention to ask the Government to appoint an officer in the cadre of the present Chief Engineer. It is enough if the Government appoint an officer in charge of the irrigation department or rather create a permanent section for irrigation with a qualified officer in charge of it. He should not be shifted from there whenever exigencies of Government service require. When transfers take place in the P. W. D. he should not be asked to go here and there. He should be made responsible for this work as also for his schemes. He should be there as an officer of irrigation to conduct investigation and to carry our irrigation works. He should be permitted to continue there and make use of the experience he gains. It is of very great importance that such an officer should not be transferred from his post now and then according to the whims and fancies of the Government. Further as I said he should be made responsible for the work which he does. In answer to some other questions the Government have admitted that some of the works constructed have fallen out or washed off. It would be the duty of the officer to see that repairs are attended to immediately. If he is only a temporary man he will have no interest in the work. About this matter I had a discussion with the Chief Engineer and I agreed that my purpose in moving this resolution was not to have an officer of his grade and to increase the expenditure of the State, especially in this time of economic depression. But I believe he and the Government would agree with me when I say that it is very necessary to have a permanent irrigation department. With these few words I recommend this resolution for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I second it.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—While I appreciate the importace of irrigation and the advancement of agriculture, I am sorry I have to oppose this motion, particularly on the ground of financial stringency. So far as the Cochin State is concerned, the allotments at our disposal to be spent on irrigation are not even sufficient to carry out the schemes formulated. We have a Special Officer at Chittur. Panchayats also have been given the control of irrigation.

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Dr. A. G. Menon.—In Chittur we have no Special Officer, only Assistant Engineer in charge.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—He has jurisdiction all over the State. Whatever money is available must be utilised for the purposes of irrigation and not on the establishment. The creation of a Special Officer, and the necessary establishment would entail expenditure which under the present circumstances might be put to greater use and better purpose. Moneys should be utilised for irrigation, not for the creation of an office. It may be that as years roll on we shall be financially better off and the advisability of creating an irrigation office might then be thought of seriously. I have my own doubts—very serious doubts—as to whether the creation of this office would conduce to the increased production of paddy in the State. We have to improve the existing irrigational facilities. We want money rather than an expert department to do it. We should carry on intensive cultivation, and try rotation of crops ; these methods are more conducive to the agricultural improvement in the Cochin State, than bringing in fresh lands under cultivation. The purpose aimed at to, that is, increase of paddy production in the State, is not likely to be served by the creation of the irrigation department. On these grounds I beg to oppose this motion.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—I beg to support this resolution. I am afraid the Hon'ble Member for Trichur has not properly appreciated the agricultural wants of this State. If at all there is any agricultural want which is more important than any other in Cochin, it is irrigation. There may be other methods of encouraging agriculture here. But the most feasible method, the most handy and the most efficacious method, would be to increase the irrigational facilities that are now available. A tour through some of the parts of Cochin would convince any one that there are very many places where irrigational schemes could be divided with very little cost and to the very great advantage of the public. There are places where water can be stored, places where canals could be constructed. The only thing required is that the Government should correctly appreciate the importance of this question and should make permanent arrangements for the same. That is also what is being done in British India and I do not think there is much difference in this respect between the condition in British India and in Cochin. I should consider that we have got more facilities —more irrigational facilities—I mean more natural arrangement—to introduce irrigational facilities or systems here in Cochin than in other parts of India.

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Now, the Hon'ble Member again was speaking of the disproportionate expenditure on this item. I beg to differ from him. The resolution contemplates not the institution of a separate department totally different from the P. W. D. If it were so, I would have opposed the resolution. But what the resolution contemplates is only an irrigation section under the Chief Engineer. The point of the resolution, as I understand, is that the temporary officer now in charge of irrigation should be made a permanent one. That does not entail much increase of expenditure. We are in fact spending something now on irrigation. Now the object of the resolution is to make that expenditure and that arrangement permanent. Reasons also were adduced for that particular point in the resolution. So long as the irrigation officer is a temporary man he could not be expected to take a permanent interest in the irrigation concerns of the State. He may be transferred to some other posts at any time and he does not feel that entire sense of responsibility in the irrigation concerns of the State and therefore the works suffer now. To obviate that difficulty, it is proposed that the irrigation section may be made permanent. I could not conceive of any more important agricultural concern than this advancement of irrigation in the State. The Hon'ble Member for Trichur again was pleased to speak of intensive agriculture, rotation of crops and so on. All these things are very useful things, perhaps better than bringing more lands under cultivation. But I think he has not taken into consideration some of those inevitable economic loss which would lead to decreasing returns in the case of intensive cultivation. Even granting that intensive cultivation is a better alternative, water is necessary even for intensive cultivation and it is the chief factor even in intensive cultivation. It is the chief factor in the rotation of crops. To use the same plot of land for paddy and then for sugarcane we want abundant supply of water. So all told, water is the most important consideration in agriculture as things stand at present. Therefore I hope that Government will do well to make this irrigation section permanent so as to give full incentive to that officer to feel a sense of responsibility and to take greater interest in his work so that there may be advancement of irrigation facilities in the State. I do not think there is any necessity to add any more points. I support this resolution

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—The Hon'ble Member for Trichur has taken many of the Members by surprise by the attitude he has taken in regard to this motion. I have respect for his knowledge of law and his knowledge of constitution. But I am sorry I cannot respect his knowledge in this direction.

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Now, Sir, if one has gone through the proceedings of this Council from 1100 onwards, in almost every session of this Council there has been a cry raised by some non-official Member or other that better facilities must be given for irrigation in the State and I remember a motion was once tabled by the then Member for Trippunittura, Mr. Rama Ayyar, to create an irrigation department in the State. It was in 1100 or 1101 and by the end of 1102 Government appointed an Assistant Engineer as a Special Engineer for irrigation. But though every one expected that that arrangement would be continued and the Assistant Engineer so deputed or one who succeeds him will go on investigating schemes for the better water supply of the State suddenly it was given up after two or three years' trial, and now there is no special Assistant Engineer or special Engineer for irrigation. Now it is well known and there is no denying the fact that this matter of irrigation is made a muddle of in the State. I can only sympathise with the Panchayat Department in its failure to grapple seriously or successfully this topic. The expert knowledge placed at his disposal is very little and much of the irrigation works, though not the major ones, are all under the Panchayat Department. They are not given that expert knowledge which alone can make irrigation in the land a success. This has been going on for years, certainly for more than half a century. So that, Sir, unless the Government now comes forward and at once creates a department which will continue not from month to month but from year to year till the end of our days, till the end of the land, unless such a department is created, we can never improve the irrigation of the State.

Most of us in our own way, though not throughout the State, have an occasion to know how irrigation is carried on by what are called these minor chiras. Somebody in the Village, most probably a Pattadar, is paid Rs. 12, 15, 20 or 25 to maintain a chira and in most of the cases the Pattadar sits quiet and the agriculturists who have to benefit by that chira will have to do the work. Petitioning the Panchayat Department and making them to do it in time is an impossibility. So that, Sir, unless arrangements are made to see that there is a methodical working of these chiras, in the maintenance of these chiras, we cannot be sure that we will have proper irrigation facilities in the State. I may tell that the question of costs is not of much importance. It will not entail a greater expenditure There is already a special Irrigation Engineer for the Chittur Taluk. You can extend his services throughout the State. Now Sir, what all things we are spending money upon? How much money is spent for Graden Parties during the last year?

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Are we not putting up a big building for the Diwan's quarters when there are so many other buildings? So that, in the midst of this, to say that there is an expenditure which the State cannot meet is not all good. What is this expenditure ? It may come to five thousand rupees. You are going to spend three thousand rupees on the Economic Survey. Which is more important ? Is not this much more important ? You are going to conduct an Economic Survey when the people are starving for water. Some ten or twelve years ago the Kole Committee made some proposals. The Government did nothing. Another committee reported and it is stated that the report is not accepted. So, Sir, unless we have got some special men with special training the future of agriculture in the State will certainly be gloomy and since Cochin has to live upon agriculture and agriculture alone, till this Harbour extends and if the wisdom of Providence takes in its grip all the State—of course that is a future contingency which may or may not happen—unless that happens we have to depend upon agriculture. Whether it be by intensive or rotation of cultivation or some other magic we have to depend upon agriculture and if we are to depend upon it we must get water.

Now go along the land and see how the chiras are. When there is agriculture the persons who are tilling the soil have to put up some temporary chiras for water for their own purpose. Now, Sir, where is water for the cattle ? Not a drop. If by some accident a chira is maintained well, some robbers of the village will come and pour poison in the water to catch the fish. The water thereby becomes poisonous and if the cattle drink the water they will die. All these take place because there is no proper maintenance and proper supervision of these chiras which supply the water for all the cultivators in the State. So that, I hope, Sir, that this House will without any division vote for this measure which does not certainly entail a great expenditure.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is indeed too late in the day for me to make a speech on the importance of irrigation to a State like ours. It has been very well recognised by the Government that affording irrigational facilities is a very important function of the Government and as the Member for Antikkad stated we had created a special investigation department in the year 1103. This department investigated many important irrigation schemes most of which have already been taken up and completed. This arrangement was followed by the creation of the present department which goes under the name of the 'Special Irrigiation division'. The Head-quarters of this division is in Chittur but its jurisdiction extends to the whole State. The present resolution is to make this department per

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manent. The Government will certainly consider this suggestion at the time of framing the next year's budget.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ഈപ്പൻ.—ഇറിഗേഷനു് ഒരു സ്പെഷ്യൽ ആഫീസറെ വയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ക്രിയ്യത്തിൽ അഭിപ്രായവ്യത്യാസത്തിനു വകയില്ല. ഓരോ വകുപ്പിലും പാളിസികം ഇനിഷിയേറു ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും മറും പ്രത്യേക വൈദഗ്ധ്യമുള്ള തലവന്മാർ ആവശ്യമാണു്. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം ചെറുതാണെങ്കിലും—വീടു എത്ര ചെറുതായാലും അടുപ്പുകാല മൂന്നു വേണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതുപോലെ—നമ്മുടെ കാര്യങ്ങൾ എല്ലാം നടത്തുവാൻ ആളുകൾ വേണമെല്ലോ. എന്നാൽ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു് ആഫീസർമാർ അധികമാണെന്നുള്ള ആക്ഷേപം ന്യായമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. അതിനു് ഒരു പരിഹാരം വേണം. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇറിഗേഷനു് പ്രത്യേകം ആഫീസറെ നിയമിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിനു പകരം ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ എൻജനീയർ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിൽ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു്.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In view of the assurance given by the Government that the matter will receive the adequate attention of the Governmentin framing the Budget and especially in view of the fact that thereis already a temporary department which this resolution requests the Government to make a permanent one, I beg to withdraw the resolution.

Resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.

Munsiffs' Courts—Power to try cases to the value of Rs. 3,000.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.—ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയം ഇതാണു്. "മുൻസീഫ് കോടതികൾക്കു ൩,൦൦൦ ക. യിൽ കവിയാതെ സലയുള്ള വ്യവഹാരങ്ങൾ വിചാരണചെയ്തു തീർപ്പുകല്പിക്കുവാൻ അധികാരം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു' ഈ സഭ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനോടു ശുപാർശചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു പ്രമേയം ഇവിടെഅവതരിപ്പിയ്ക്കുവാനുള്ള പ്രധാനകാരണം പറയാം. അതായതു് പഞ്ചായത്തു കോടതികൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു് എല്ലാ വില്ലേജുകളിലും സിവിൽപ്രൊവർ കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഒരു ബിൽപാസായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതോടുകൂടി മുൻസീഫ് കോടതികളിലുള്ള ഫയലുകൾക്കു് സല്പം കുറവു വരാനിടയുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതാണു് ഒന്നാമത്തെ കാരണം. രണ്ടാമതു് ഈ ക്ഷാമകാലത്തു് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് കോട്ടിലേയ്ക്കു പോകേണ്ടുന്ന വഴിച്ചിലവു കുറയും. മൂന്നാമതു് മുൻസീഫ് കോടതികൾക്കു് ൩,൦൦൦ വരെ അധികാരം കൊടുത്താൽ അപ്പീൽ കേസുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ജോലിക്കു് ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് ജഡ്ജിമാർക്കു കുറച്ചുകൂടി സൌകര്യമുണ്ടാകും ഈ മൂന്നു സംഗതികളാണു് ഈ പ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ എന്നെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചതു്. എന്നാൽ ഇതു് കോടതി സംബന്ധമായ ഒരു കാര്യമായതുകൊണ്ടും ഇതിനെ കുറിച്ചു് അത്രത്തോളം കൂടി

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